

AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 159 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 2000 and State:

- (a) whether the disinvestment plan of IA and AI would increase the possibilities for private airlines;
- (b) what is the number of private airlines in the country at present; and
- (c) what is Government's reaction on issues raised in a newsitem captioned "Airports Authority cancels credit facility to Sahara Air" published in Asian Age dated May 4, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Private airlines are already operating scheduled services in the country. Disinvestment of AI/IA may not affect the commercial prospects of scheduled private airlines. However, this and all other related issues are being looked into in detail.

- (b) There are two airlines operating scheduled services in the country namely, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines.
- (c) Recovery of dues for the services/facilities provided to scheduled airlines is a commercial transaction between the AAI and concerned airlines.

Modernisation of Hyderabad Airport

1733. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal before Government to modernise the Hyderabad Airport to the International standards with all modern facilities;
- (b) if so, the likely cost of modernisation of Hyderabad Airport; and
- (c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Hyderabad airport has already been upgraded with all modern infrastructural facilities at a cost of Rs. 100 crores approximately. The Government has also declared Hyderabad Airport as an international airport.

MOU on Airlink with China

1734. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: